

WINTER EDITION 2006

SUSTAINER

THE MAGAZINE OF THE 3RD CORPS SUPPORT COMMAND



**MAINTAINING
THE MISSION**

SUSTAINER

TELLING THE 3RD CORPS SUPPORT COMMAND STORY



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On the Cover: Sgt. Anthony Voshell of the 181st Trans. Bn. Skunkwerks shop cuts pieces to armor vehicles. (Photo by Spc. Andrew Orillion)

3rd COSCOM Soldiers work with Iraqi troops to load medical supplies donated by U.S. forces for Iraqi people.



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ON THE BACK

Photo by Spc. David Chapman



“Can Do” Attitude

Welcome to a new year of sustaining the line. During last quarter, I had the opportunity to deliver holiday messages and conduct battlefield circulations.

The morale and focus of our leaders and Soldiers reaffirmed the confidence I have in each and every one of you. Thank you for all you have done and will do in the weeks and months ahead.

The 3rd COSCOM team is spread across Germany, Afghanistan, Kuwait and Iraq. 2006 will be a year of deployments, redeployments, inactivations, restationing, reintegration, reunions, retirements, promotions and the list could go on.

I encourage all of us to approach 2006 as a year of personal and professional growth, and to have a “Can Do” attitude.

Leave the excuses at the door; instead, uncover creative solutions for overcoming mission obstacles. Take the bull by the horns and make things happen.

Leaders use their perspective to give direction, guidance and vision, but use other's perspective to give connection. Make an effort to understand another's position on an issue.

Passion fuels vision, so exceed

expectations, raise the bar and demand more of yourself than anyone else. Don't do just enough to get by during this deployment and life. Seize the opportunities all around you, and take ownership in all you do.

Understand that everyone around you is trying to achieve the same “Can Do” attitude as you, so go with the flow and adjust fire when necessary. Blessed are the flexible for they shall not be bent out of shape. Regardless of the path you choose to achieve personal and professional growth during 2006, have the will to initiate and complete your journey, and expect a return as a result of your commitment.

Thank you for your everyday sacrifices that contribute to the COSCOM mission in Iraq, Afghanistan, Kuwait and Germany.

A special thanks to each of our Rear Detachments, Family Readiness Groups and loved ones for all you are doing to support us while we are deployed.

Rebecca S. Halstead
Brigadier General
Commanding General



Support your Soldiers

Soldiers defend America's freedom. That headline reads almost daily in news publications back home. Soldiers spend holiday season deployed abroad, reads across others.

This has been true for more than a decade, dating back to Operations Desert Storm and Shield, when I was a staff sergeant with the 101st Airborne Division. I spent that holiday season in the Kuwaiti desert fighting off Saddam's Army after he invaded Kuwait.

No time is more trying, on even the

most battle-hardened Soldiers, than the holiday season. It's these times when Soldiers need support, not only from home but from battle buddies, comrades and noncommissioned officers.

It's incredible witnessing the everyday steadfastness of Soldiers, relying on each other for comfort and motivation during this time of the year. Our Soldiers are putting their lives on hold for the greater good of humanity; they know they are making history, winning daily battles against the insurgency. Our junior Soldiers are relying on their NCOs for strong leadership and support amidst the holiday season.

I put my concerns at ease this holiday season, because they are getting the job done. Now more than ever, NCOs are taking the initiative, building an Esprit de Corps and lifelong bonds with their Soldiers.

Each generation of NCOs seems to surpass standards set by their predecessors

and mentors. The seemingly monotonous grind of daily operations may sometimes lead to complacency; this is when I witness NCOs grab complacent attitudes and banish them right on the spot by simply communicating with their Soldiers.

The professionalism NCOs maintain throughout the holiday season is what sets them apart from mediocrity and marginal leadership.

I witness the hard work NCOs put into training our young Soldiers. NCOs are running the gamut, training and preparing our warriors for every situation. I am proud to lead the men and women of our Army.

Our young Soldiers epitomize the fighting spirit of our great nation and they are what make this the greatest Army and fighting force in the world.

Michael L. Patterson
Command Sergeant Major
64th Corps Support Group

Maintaining the Mission!

Welcome to the Winter 2006 Sustainer magazine. Our goal in this edition, as in every edition, is to provide a wide variety of information for and about the 3rd Corps Support Command and the Soldiers, civilians and family members who make up this proud unit.

Seven servicemembers joined Jesse James, the star of the Monster Garage television show, for a series finale challenge in Iraq. Experience the teamwork and inevitable frustration as we take you through the four-day transformation.

Mechanics all over Iraq are working long hours in grease-stained coveralls to keep the vehicles we drive operating and safe. "Maintaining the Mission" recognized these Soldiers' priceless contributions.

Relive the holidays in Iraq as we take you through the distinguished visitors, events, services and meals that created holiday spirit downrange, and read about the 16th Corps Support Group's efforts to honor fallen comrades by building a Thanksgiving monument.

Before reaching their final

deployment destination, COSCOM Soldiers completed training in Kuwait. "Boots on Ground" paints a picture of the desert training.

Civil Affairs offices are working on countless missions with Iraqi people.

Learn how one Iraqi girl named Ma'rwā reflects the hope and compassion of the Soldiers who work to create opportunities for her.

Our regular columns from the Family Readiness Group, Equal Opportunity Advisor, Chaplain, Inspector General, Career

Counselor and Safety Officer are overflowing with information.

This edition's double-sided poster features the Monster Garage troops and a dedication to the diversity within COSCOM.

If you have any suggestions, or would like to make

a submission for a future edition of Sustainer magazine, please contact us at the address to the right.

We ask that you keep the Soldiers and civilians who are serving in harm's way around the world, and their family members, in your thoughts. If you are one of them, we thank you for your service and sacrifice!

*Spc. Mary E. Ferguson
Editor/Layout & Design
3rd Corps Support Command*



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Submit story & newsnotes ideas to:
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BRING YOUR COURAGE

By Chaplain (Col.) Lance Kittleson, 3rd COSCOM CONUS Rear Detachment Chaplain

As I overhear the words, "Bring your Courage," on a television recruiting commercial, I think what a great invitation to a life of challenge, adventure, struggle and accomplishment – "Bring your Courage!"

In a culture filled with booze, drugs and idolized media-born icons, rarely do we hear such a challenge. It screams that this job, this life, offers anything but ease.

The majority of people feel anything but courageous most of the time. Simple daily living seems to afford all the challenges we can handle, so why would someone want to volunteer for extra duties?

The average person may respond to a call for courage with, "Are you kidding? I'm over my quota for courage-requiring challenges," or so they think while relaxing in their soul's lawn chair.

When we hear ourselves complaining about the status of our lives, or complacently ignoring life's call for courage, a simple look at surrounding communities reveals the people who "Bring their Courage," on a daily basis.

The cancer victim struggling out of bed to attend another devastating chemotherapy session is "Bringing his Courage!"

The single mother or father who facing the overwhelming demands of providing for their children all alone is "Bringing his/her Courage!"

The young Soldier's spouse who shuffles through his/her days weary with fear but fueled with pride and hope is "Bringing his/her Courage!"

Each day we are invited, willingly or not, to step out into the darkness of life's unexpected obstacles. We hear a voice from beyond ourselves gently motivating us, "Bring whatever courage you have to Me. Trust that I will make it last."

Our Lord invites us to respond to life with our courage, no matter how small the amount may be, like the widow of Elijah's day, who shared her and her son's last meal with the Prophet.

But what is courage? So often we think of it as a wild, reckless charge to the teeth of the enemy. For most of us, courage is taking one tentative step after another, moving forward when we could sit still.

Courage does not live in campfire stories or fairytale books, it breathes in the lives of everyday people who just keep moving forward, one step at a time.

As you sacrifice in the daily steps our nation takes toward freeing the world from terror, you are constantly proving that you brought more than a duffle bag and gear on this deployment ... you "Brought your Courage!" Now, keep bringing it!

Forward Chaplains

HO/ 19th CMMC	Chaplain (Col.) Larry Robinson Master Sgt. Elbert Jackson Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Barb Sherer Staff Sgt. David Thomas Chaplain (Maj.) Stephen Quigg Sgt. Heather Morgan Spc. Christopher Robbins
27th MCB	Chaplain (Cpt.) Raymond Folsom Spc. Jared Gregory
35th ASG	Chaplain (Maj.) Kevin McGhee Sgt. Christopher Rosevelt Sgt. Pamela Palagar
16th CSG	Chaplain (Maj.) Homer McClearn Staff Sgt. Arthur Washington Chaplain (Maj.) William Harding Sgt. Ariel Castillo Chaplain (1st Lt.) Darin Hendrey Pfc. Timothy Carrio Chaplain (Cpt.) Craig Johnson Pvt. Christina Peters
40th CSG	Chaplain (Maj.) Jeffery Bell Staff Sgt. Lufino Mejorado Chaplain (Cpt.) Michael Williams Chaplain (Cpt.) Robert Smith Spc. Evelyn Hess
64th CSG	Chaplain (Maj.) Richard Graves Sgt. Matthew Nelson Chaplain (Cpt.) William Glenn Sgt. Robert Dinsmore Spc. Jacob Tanner Chaplain (Cpt.) Christopher Wallace Spc. Raymond Grove
4th SB	Chaplain (Maj.) Gray Bragg Staff Sgt. Jeffery Simmons Chaplain (Cpt.) Daniel Husak Spc. Shenika Hampton Chaplain (Cpt.) Chuen Yoo Chaplain (Cpt.) James Key Sgt. Dustin Hall Chaplain (Cpt.) Denise Hagler Spc. Payten Redfern Chaplain (Cpt.) Loren Hutsell Spc. Donte Earl
101st SB	Chaplain (Maj.) Steven Turner Staff Sgt. Tracy Jackson Chaplain (Maj.) Glen Mosteller Pvt. Jacob Street Chaplain (Cpt.) John Smith Pfc. Michael Amber Chaplain (Cpt.) Kenneth Gesch Pvt. Daniel Boatwright Chaplain (Cpt.) Billy Graham Sgt. Graig Berg
48th BCT	Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Stanley Bamberg Master Sgt. John Linstra Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Lee Yoakam Staff Sgt. Robert Davis Chaplain (1st Lt.) Jonathan Fisher Sgt. James Franklin Chaplain (1st Lt.) Paul Douglas Sgt. Kurt Kirby Spc. Jeremy Scott Chaplain (Lt. Col.) James Johnson Sgt. Jay Robinson Chaplain (Cpt.) Terry Romine Spc. Ernest Tillinghaust Chaplain (Maj.) David Anderson Spc. Greg Hogarth

MONSTER GARAGE



Story and Photos by Spc. Mary E. Ferguson





The seven-member Monster Garage team listens attentively to Jesse James, star of the Monster Garage television show, as he introduces himself and explains the challenge that awaits the team over the next four days. Camera crews film the discussion for the opening sequence of the future show.

Sparks flew and cameras rolled as five Soldiers and two airmen attacked the challenge of transforming a decommissioned humvee into a Monster Garage beast ... in just four days ... with limited supplies ... in Iraq.

The monster mission began Dec. 17 when Jesse James, the Monster Garage production crew, an 800 horsepower engine and a set of custom wheels arrived at Logistical Support Area Anaconda.

Soldiers rushed James and his crew to the 181st Transportation Battalion's Skunkwerks shop, where they set-up a makeshift downrange studio to film the series finale of the Discovery Channel syndicated television show.

During a typical Monster Garage show, James creates an elaborate challenge of converting a

vehicle into a monstrous machine that performs way beyond its original limits. He gives a team of mechanics five days to complete the challenge, offering a limited amount of help along the way.

James dished out more than a typical challenge to the Soldiers and airmen chosen to assist him in creating the hybrid humvee. He counted the travel and set-up as day one, leaving the team with only four days to accomplish the mission.

After pre-interviewing a group of military mechanics, the show's production team selected a team of six servicemembers who, understanding the incredible mission ahead, eagerly assisted in the set-up process.

Sgt. Matthew Mullen, Sgt. Kevin Hembre, Sgt. Andrew Staeven, Spc. Brandon Bunch, Air Force Staff Sgt. Jason Gregg and Air Force Staff Sgt.

Andrew Briggs formed James' six-man Monster Garage roster.

Mullen, Hembre and Staeven work in the 181st Trans. Bn.'s Skunkwerks shop and Bunch is from the 41st Transportation Company. Gregg is with Detachment 1058, based at Camp Speicher, and Briggs is from Detachment 2632, located on LSA Anaconda.

"During the interview, I was asked if I felt confident enough to handle the task at hand and if the team could meet the deadline," Bunch explained.

Command Sgt. Maj. Cynthia Graham, the 181st Trans. Bn. command sergeant major, was added to the team after assisting in the set-up process.

"The producer said Jesse needs a seventh person for the team ... and he wants you," Graham

explained. "I told him I would rather it be a Soldier from the battalion, but he said there would be six without me, or seven with me."

After clearing it with the battalion commander, Graham was wearing a pair of coveralls with a television camera in her face.

With the set-up process complete, and the mechanic team established, the production crew began filming. James and the seven servicemembers gathered around West Coast Chopper painter Pete Finlan as he sketched an ambitious drawing of the final product.

On James' cue, the mechanics ravaged the humvee, each team member feasting on different pieces of the vehicle. Everyone just fell into place and started working on the areas of the vehicle that they specialized in, Graham said.



The Monster Garage team attacks the humvee from all angles. With the new wheels attached and the final welding happening the vehicle is approaching the final stages of the four-day transformation.



Sgt. Kevin Hembre handles final drilling to the vehicle exterior.



Air Force Staff Sgt. Jason Gregg and Air Force Staff Sgt. Andrew Briggs make a few adjustments to the 800 horsepower engine.



Command Sgt. Maj. Cynthia Graham holds a pipe for Briggs to cut.



Spc. Brandon Bunch and Gregg discuss the different vehicle transformation options.

“We had our hands in pretty much everything at one point or another on the vehicle, but I was the one who designed the wiring scheme and made up the wiring harness,” Staeven said.

“I worked on the power steering and the hydro-boost for the brakes and steering,” Bunch said. “I installed the rear transmission mounting bracket and gave a helping hand in other areas when needed.”

The team shifted from one part of the vehicle to the next, so focused they often had to be reminded to eat and take breaks.

“I’ve never seen a crew work as hard as these guys,” said Ned Judge, the show’s producer.

In past shows there have been disagreements and petty arguments among crewmembers, James said.

“The military is the ultimate team aspect. You enter the military and everyone is an equal team player. I love it,” he said. “We set out to come over here not to focus on a TV show, or me, but on these Soldiers building something cool together.”

Despite the long hours and focused teamwork, the reality of their surroundings became painfully clear when the transmission blew during the first test run.

“These Soldiers had little equipment to work with and no parts store to run to,” Graham said. “When the transmission sheared, you could see the frustration on everyone’s faces.”

The team refused to give up, and even James spent two hours trying to weld the damaged transmission back together, she added.

“I felt like we had let down all of the people who were standing around watching and waiting to see what we had created,” Bunch said. “When I heard that there were almost 1,000 people lining the streets outside the battalion, the pressure was greater than at any point before.”

After a failed second attempt, James shut down the show.

Refusing to accept defeat, the servicemembers demanded the fifth day that James gave every other team of mechanics on previous show.

Following a long emotional night of brainstorming solutions and debating ways to finish the mission, James and his production crew agreed to give the team their fifth day.

Without the necessary parts, a fifth day would be worthless, so they shipped the humvee back to James’ Long Beach shop where it will be completed, Graham said.

Though James and the seven servicemembers did not walk away from the four-day mission with a completed Monster Garage vehicle, they did gain an incredible experience and were able to focus on something other than being away from home during the holiday season.

“Those four days were some of the best moments of my life and I will definitely take the memories with me,” Gregg said.

The Monster Garage series finale is scheduled to air on the Discovery Channel in late April or early May.



MAINTAINING THE MISSION

Mechanics from 3rd Corps Support Command units throughout Iraq work long hours in grease-stained coveralls, ensuring their fellow Soldiers' safety during missions. While much of what they do is hidden under the hoods of vehicles, in one way or another their work impacts every Soldier in theater. These are the Soldiers who keep the wheels turning and the engines running; they are the Soldiers who constantly improve mission safety; they are the Soldiers who "Maintain the Mission!"

HHC, 3RD COSCOM

By Staff Sgt. Monika Comeaux, 207th MPAD

The motor pool of 3rd Corps Support Command's Headquarters and Headquarters Company is running on all cylinders on Tuesdays, the unit's designated command maintenance day, when operators and vehicles pay a visit to the mechanics and prescribed load list clerks.

HHC takes this task so seriously that the first sergeant checks over and dispatches his own vehicle, and on Tuesdays, the company executive officer spends his whole day in the motor pool.

The 15 Soldiers who work in the motor pool provide maintenance for nearly 100 vehicles, and the numbers are still growing, said Staff Sgt. Samuel J. Lee, an HHC light-wheel vehicle mechanic. In addition to the vehicles of HHC, the motor pool oversees the dispatching and maintenance for the vehicles of six other units.

Sgt. Anthony Nichols works on as many as five vehicles a day. "I know the job of the 62B [light-wheel vehicle mechanic], just as well as my primary MOS, which is generator mechanic,"

Nichols said proudly.

He cross-trained himself and claims to know everything there is to know about humvees. He is also in charge of three Soldiers, teaching and mentoring them every step of the way, as they gain more experience and become better mechanics.

The crew spends long hours in the motor pool. Although their official hours for customer service are 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m., they stay as long as their needed to assist other Soldiers to accomplish their mission. On Tuesdays they open at 8 a.m. for command maintenance.

Vehicles that go off post take priority and are finished as soon as possible. "Everything is taken care of 100 percent. I don't want them breaking down outside the wire," Lee said.



HHC, 101ST SB



By Sgt. Patricia Tso, 101st SB

Mechanics from the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 101st Sustainment Brigade, conquer their daily mission of maintaining their units while deployed at

Forward Operating Base Q-West, Iraq.

"We have over 200 vehicles and [pieces of] equipment to include vehicles, forklifts, generators, air conditioning units and trailers," said Staff Sgt. Ronald Malone, motor pool supervisor, from Russellville, Ala.

Malone is in charge of more than 30 Soldiers, who are spread out to accommodate the work load the mechanics face every day.

Some mechanics are responsible for

maintenance at the motor pool, and some ensure that the generators are operating to provide the power source needed.

A selected few play an important role on the combat logistical patrol support team.

The team provides security for the brigade commander and the 101st Brigade Troops Battalion commander during ground missions.

Soldiers at the motor pool are often seen with their uniforms covered in dirt or drenched in grease.

"This week I gather oil, I dump the old oil and supply new oil," said Pfc. Sean Donnelly, who is from Buffalo, N.Y.

"Next week I will be ordering parts," he explained.

"The mechanics do an outstanding job," said Malone, giving all the credit to his Soldiers for their daily accomplishments.

223RD MAINT. CO.



By Sgt. Judith DaCosta

The 223rd Maintenance Shop in Taji, Iraq is set up to do repairs but it has become more of a fabrication shop, said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Clark T. Keeler, a supervisor and truck armor designer with the

223rd Maintenance Company, a Reserve unit based out of Grand Prairie, Texas (attached to 3rd Corps Support Command while in theater). When we [223rd Maint.Co.] arrived here in Taji Feb. 2, said Keeler, we received the mission to uparmor vehicles.

We had to come up with a design for truck armor, gun boxes to suit the needs of the Iraqi National Guard vehicles and push bumpers to enhance the capabilities of humvees for American servicemembers, said Keeler.

We design and make a plywood pattern used to cut out metal doors and shields for the front of [Iraqi National Guard] vehicles, said Staff Sgt. Samuel J. Anaya, a certified welder specializing in fusion and pipeline welding and a welder with the 223rd Maint. Co.

"We strive to do no less for them than we would do for American [servicemember's] vehicles," said Maj. Alfredo Garcia, Jr., the 223rd Maint. Co. commander.

In addition to truck armor, the maintenance shop equips the Iraqi National Guard with gun boxes.

"We weld a metal box onto green Mercedes trucks, the Iraqi [Guard's] version of the light medium tactical vehicles, to provide protection for their troops," said Anaya.

Aside from truck armor and gun boxes, the push bumper, designed for humvees, is another product that is in high demand at the maintenance shop and is provided for the servicemember, said Anaya.

"Our best customer is the coalition military assistance team," said Anaya. The push bumper is a necessity for them because they are always out on the main supply route.

Terrorists will try to trap military vehicles, said Anaya. When this happens, humvees without bumpers may need to be damaged in order to continue the mission. "The bumper compensates for that," he added. "It is like a weapon for the humvee."

The strength of each product made by the 223rd Maint. Co. is a direct reflection of the strength of a team dedicated to their mission.

SKUNKWERKS

By Spc. Andrew Orillion

Countless people are indebted to a small group of Soldiers here at Logistical Support Area Anaconda, but you will not see them in a hospital or riding in the back of an ambulance. They don't perform surgery or conduct daring rescue missions. They are the Soldiers of Skunkwerks, and the under armor work they do on vehicles saves lives.

"Skunkwerks is basically an under armor shop. We provide additional protection for humvee crews: the drivers, the passengers, the gunners, by providing under armor," said Sgt. Matthew Mullen, the noncommissioned officer in charge of Skunkwerks. Mullen from the 890th Transportation Company and is supporting the 181st Transportation Company while deployed.

Under armor is a process in which armor is welded to the bottom of a humvee to provide protection from improvised explosive devices.

Since Operation Iraqi Freedom 1, the Skunkwerks team has under armored humvees in their shop located at the 181st Transportation Company, here.

"Skunkwerks started here with the 181st back in OIF 1. Then it went to 7th Trans [Transportation Battalion] during OIF 2, then the 457th Trans [Transportation Battalion] for OIF 3 and now it's back to the 181st [Transportation Battalion]. We'll be doing it



until next October," said Mullen.

"I don't have an exact count, but we've done the whole battalion, all of our trucks. It started out that way in March, when I started here," said Mullen. "Word got out and we started covering the whole theater."

Although the need for under armoring is high, Skunkwerks is one

of only a handful of under armor shops in theater.

"There are a few other places that do under armoring but we are the main source for the work," said Mullen.

"In addition to armor we also make double bumpers, hood scopes for air induction, side mounts for small arms and turret boxes with ballistic glass," said Mullen. The Skunkwerks team also installs the Warlock system, an IED countermeasure, and the new Rhino system.

In order to meet the demand for under armoring and modifications, the 181st Trans. Bn. brings in expert welders form all over.

"We have one worker who was in the Marines, another guy use to be in the Navy," said Mullen. "What we do is very important so we want the best people."

When the 181st Trans. Bn. completes its rotation next year a new team will assume the Skunkwerks name, but their life-saving mission will remain the same.

Eligibility Requirements

- Height - Males, 5'10 to 6'4" tall / Females 5'8" to 6'2" (possible exceptions made for Soldiers with specific Military Occupational Specialties)
- Minimum General Technical Score of 110 (can obtain waiver) on the Armed Forces Vocational Aptitude Test
- Must have an opening for your Military Occupational Speciality and pay grade
- No Civil Convictions or violations of the Uniform Code of Military Justice
- No drug or alcohol related incidents
- Minimum Army Physical Fitness Test Score of 230
- Must meet all Army height and weight standards
- No movement restrictive profiles
- Must be a U.S. Citizen
- Must be Active Duty, Regular Army
- Must have a stable financial background

Packet Contents

- Department of the Army Photo
- Enlisted Records Brief (2-A and 2-1)
- Two Letters of Recommendation (E-4 and below only)
- Last three Noncommissioned Officer Evaluation Report
- Height and Weight Statement
- Last Army Physical Fitness Test score card
- Completed questionnaire and signed volunteer statement

The 3rd United States Infantry Regiment, better known as The Old Guard, is the oldest active duty infantry unit in the Army. The Old Guard's main mission is to perform official Army ceremonies and urban operations within the National Capital Region. TOG is responsible for the Tomb of the Unknowns, the Army Drill Team and Caisson Platoon.

TOG operates in Arlington, Va., but the unit's headquarters are located at Fort Myer, Va. It is a volunteer unit predominantly comprised of Soldiers with the primary military occupational specialty of 11B, infantry, but there are Soldiers from a variety of support MOSs.

Eligible Soldiers can reenlist for TOG provided they have submitted a packet and have been accepted. TOG is a 36-month stabilized tour.

It is a very prestigious unit and has opportunities for self-improvement, military schools, training and travel.

If you are a highly motivated individual and up for the challenge of a different, but rewarding assignment, talk to your unit Career Counselor about your reenlistment options with TOG.



The photograph, graphic and information used in this Career Counselor's Corner was retrieved from the 3rd United States Infantry Regiment's official website.

The Old Guard

3d United States Infantry Regiment

Honor Guard

Ceremonial

The Old Guard performs official Army ceremonies and urban operations within the National Capital Region.

Mission

On order, 3d U.S. Infantry Regiment deploys by air or land to conduct NBC operations, conduct area security operations, and control civil disturbances in support of the Military District of Washington's defense to the National Capital Region. At home, the 3d U.S. Infantry Regiment conducts joint and Army ceremonies and funerals in order to represent the U.S. Army and the Military.

Tactical

On order, the 3d U.S. Infantry Regiment deploys by air or land to conduct NBC operations, conduct area security operations, and control civil disturbances in support of the Military District of Washington's defense to the National Capital Region.

Requirements

The Old Guard recruits the best of 35 different MOSs.

Height: Males, 5'10 to 6'4" tall / Females 5'8" to 6'2"
 Minimum GT Score of 110 (Waivable)
 Must have an opening for your MOS and Grade
 No Civil Convictions or UCMJ
 No drug or alcohol related incidents
 Minimum FT Score of 230
 Must meet all Army height and weight standards
 No movement restrictive profiles
 Must be a U.S. Citizen
 MUST be Active Duty, Regular Army
 Must have a stable financial background

Prospective Officers wanting to join the Old Guard, please first take the course the 3-1 at commercial 1700. We also have a 3-1 at commercial 1700. We also have a 3-1 at commercial 1700. We also have a 3-1 at commercial 1700.

Prospective Noncommissioned Officers and enlisted soldiers wanting to join the Old Guard, please call the Recruiting Office at commercial (703) 698-0148 or 1-800-455-0148.

More information available online at <http://www.military.mil/oldguard>

Join the Army's Oldest Active Infantry Regiment

Professional Development

While assigned to the 3d U.S. Infantry Regiment, a soldier is afforded many opportunities to develop professionally. Among the qualifications that can be earned are the Ranger Tab, the Expert Infantry Badge, the Expert Field Medic Badge, the German Proficiency Badge, the Tomb Design, the Parachute Design, and the Air Assault Design.

Holidays in Iraq

By Spc. Mary E. Ferguson

Boots trudge through sand, not snow. Crowds wait in daily dining facility lines, not Christmas sale check-out lines. Days run together and new weeks begin before Soldiers realize that it's Monday again. December downrange is much like any other month of the year. Getting into the holiday spirit is far from automatic during a deployment, it's something Soldiers must create from scratch.

3rd Corps Support Command Soldiers, civilians and family members dedicated themselves to making the holidays in Iraq memorable.

Their efforts, coupled with several distinguished visitors' words of support and encouragement, infectiously spread the holiday spirit to countless deployed servicemembers.





Messages of Support

Several distinguished visitors delivered messages of support, encouragement and hope to deployed 3rd Corps Support Command Soldiers during the holiday season.

Sgt. Maj. of the Army Kenneth J. Preston kicked off the Christmas weekend with a Dec. 23 visit to Logistical Support Area Anaconda. Preston spoke with Soldiers from several COSCOM units before introducing his Hope and Freedom USO Tour that evening at LSA Anaconda's Halt Memorial Stadium.

Chief of Army Chaplains, Maj. Gen. David D. Hicks, delivered the next Christmas message at the 7 p.m. Christmas Eve service at the Provider Chapel, during his Dec. 24 visit to LSA Anaconda. After the service, Hicks and Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Barbara Sherer, the 3rd COSCOM Deputy Chaplain, visited Soldiers who spent Christmas Eve in the guard towers.

Brig. Gen. Rebecca S. Halstead, the 3rd COSCOM commanding general and the unit's command sergeant major, David D. Wood, spent their Christmas Eve flying around Iraq, visiting COSCOM Soldiers at bases other than LSA Anaconda.

Dozens of Soldiers from Logistical Support Area Anaconda walked away from Dec. 25, 2005 with a unique Christmas gift – a handshake and coin from Army Chief of Staff, General Peter J. Schoomaker.

After visiting Soldiers from the 29th Brigade Combat Team, Schoomaker spoke at a 181st Transportation Battalion-hosted ceremony. He joined Halstead in presenting Combat Action Badges to Sgt. 1st Class Richard M. Murphy, Spc. Shane T. Ferraro and Spc. Nicholas E. Weiser, all from the 465th Transportation Company, based out of Pennsylvania. The general officers then promoted Staff Sgt. William Fisher to the rank of sergeant

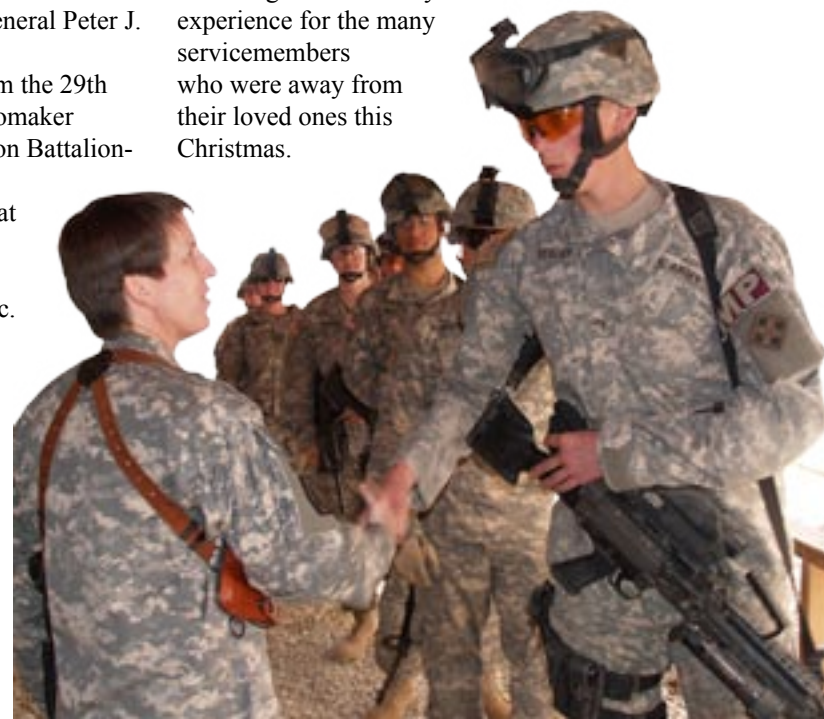


first class. Fisher is with Battery B, 1-17 Field Artillery Battalion, based out of Oklahoma. Schoomaker also reenlisted Staff Sgt. Jason Hildenbrand from 101st Aviation Regiment's 4th Battalion Forward Support Company.

Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Peter Pace wrapped up the holiday season's distinguished messages as he helped servicemembers on LSA Anaconda bring in the New Year with his Jan. 1 visit and USO touring show at the Sustainer Theater.

However brief their handshakes with the Soldiers here may have been, the distinguished guests' visits may undoubtedly be among the most uplifting moments many troops will experience during their deployment, possibly during their time in uniform.

The coins presented and photographs taken are small pieces of evidence of an unforgettable holiday experience for the many servicemembers who were away from their loved ones this Christmas.



The holiday events, services and meals throughout theater reflected the incredible spirit that exists in the COSCOM downrange family of Soldiers, civilians and contracted personnel.

Company-level holiday celebrations filled the month of December, reminding troops that despite the separation from their loved ones during the holidays, they have a family in their fellow Soldiers.

Several Family Readiness Groups added to the festivities by sending Christmas trees and ornaments to their deployed troops. Tree trimming parties and decorated offices warmed COSCOM buildings.

Units hosted video teleconferences, giving their Soldiers the opportunity to see their families' smiles and hear their voices during the holiday season.

Chaplains delivered multiple worship services, and Morale, Welfare and Recreation centers hosted countless events.

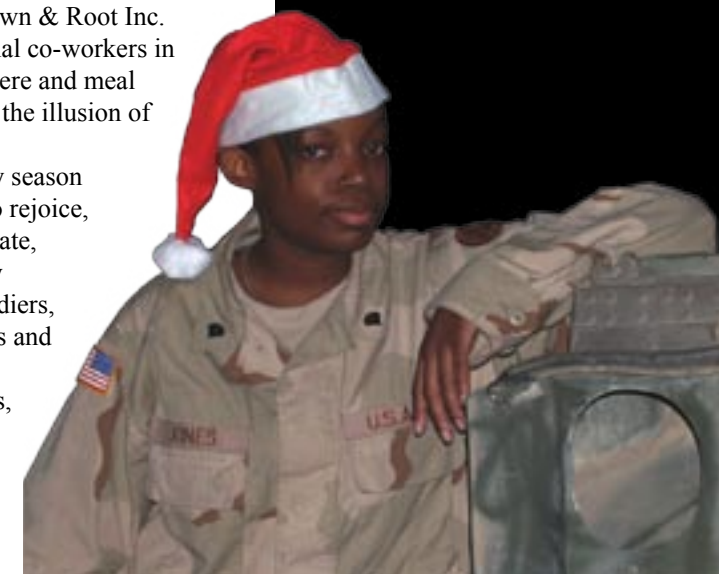
Many senior enlisted Soldiers and officers showed their appreciation by manning towers and guard-posts during their Soldiers' duty-shifts on Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Years day, and serving Soldiers holiday meals.

Dining facilities went above and beyond their mission requirements, as staff members sacrificed their free time to create a wonderland of decoration and warmth.



LSA Anaconda's dining facility three swept the holiday awards, earning The Commanding General's Thanksgiving Award and The Commanding General's Christmas Overall Award. The dining facility's 20 COSCOM Soldiers joined their 7 Kellogg, Brown & Root Inc. and 130 local national co-workers in creating an atmosphere and meal that brought at least the illusion of home to Iraq.

The 2005 holiday season in Iraq was a time to rejoice, celebrate and appreciate, because of the many contributions of Soldiers, civilians, contractors and distinguished guests who attended parties, decorated trees, participated in events, worshiped during services, prepared feasts and of course, wore Santa Claus hats.



Soldiers' Spirit

Holidays in Iraq

MT. ABRAM'S QUEST

By Spc. David Chapman

Deployed Soldiers attack every day in a "battle rhythm" of working, eating, sleeping and physical training. Some Soldiers intensify that rhythm as they go above and beyond the average PT.

Two examples of such Soldiers are Sgt. 1st Class Juan Diaz DeLeon and Staff Sgt. Sean Carrier of the Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 181st Transportation Battalion.

During the month of December, the two noncommissioned officers competed in the Mount Abram's Quest PT challenge, a contest that encompasses multiple events involving cardiovascular exercises.

Competitors combine exercising on the tread wall, stair stepper, treadmill, elliptical trainer and stationary bicycling, with outside running, bicycling, and swimming to accumulate fictional "feet" up a mountain.

"An event is measured in five-minute intervals," said Linda Shafer-Mehrmann, Morale, Welfare and Recreation Director at the Logistical Support Area Anaconda Circuit Gym.

The program started at an Air Force facility about two years ago. The title of the program is in reference to the biblical Abraham and his journey up the mountain, Shafer-Mehrmann said.

"The Circuit Gym began the program in August of 2005," she added.

The competition ends at the conclusion of each month, and then the teams return to the foot of the mountain at the start



Photo by Spc. David Chapman

Sgt. 1st Class Juan Diaz DeLeon and Staff Sgt. Sean Carrier accept first place honors after completing the Mt. Abram's Quest.

of the following month.

"Once I saw all the names on the board I was excited to compete against so many other people," Diaz DeLeon said.

After a grueling and physical 31 days, Carrier and Diaz DeLeon completed the challenge and won first place. They also beat the last record set five months earlier.

"The last record was 41,000 feet," Shafer-Mehrmann explained. "These guys had 49,637 feet."

"For me the program gave me something else to think about while I am here," Diaz DeLeon said. "And by the time I was finished with the program, another month of my tour was over."

"It gives you something besides work and stress to think about. I lost 15 pounds doing it," Carrier said.

Everyone is a Safety Officer

By Lorese Dudley, 3rd COSCOM Safety Director

Although the safety program is a commander's program, each Soldier, civilian and contractor is responsible for the safety of personnel and equipment. This is why everyone will benefit from understanding the Composite Risk Management process.

Have you ever tripped over a wire or cable, almost rear-ending your buddy in the vehicle ahead of you because you were not paying attention or going too fast, or almost hit a pedestrian because they were not wearing reflective gear and you simply could not see them? The majority of deployed Soldiers have seen or experienced at least one of these safety concerns. The important question is, "did you ignore it or did you do something about it?" These are the issues we are faced with while deployed, and unfortunately these same issues are contributing to injuries.

Each of us can make a difference by understanding and employing Composite Risk Management. Many Soldiers know the risk management process but may not be aware of this new terminology the U.S. Army Combat Readiness Center has developed.

It's simple, the concept of CRM does not take away from the five-step risk management process; it adds to the process by ensuring Soldiers are aware of the accidental factors in their everyday operations. A loss of combat power because of a preventable accident is just as detrimental as a loss of combat power due to enemy action.

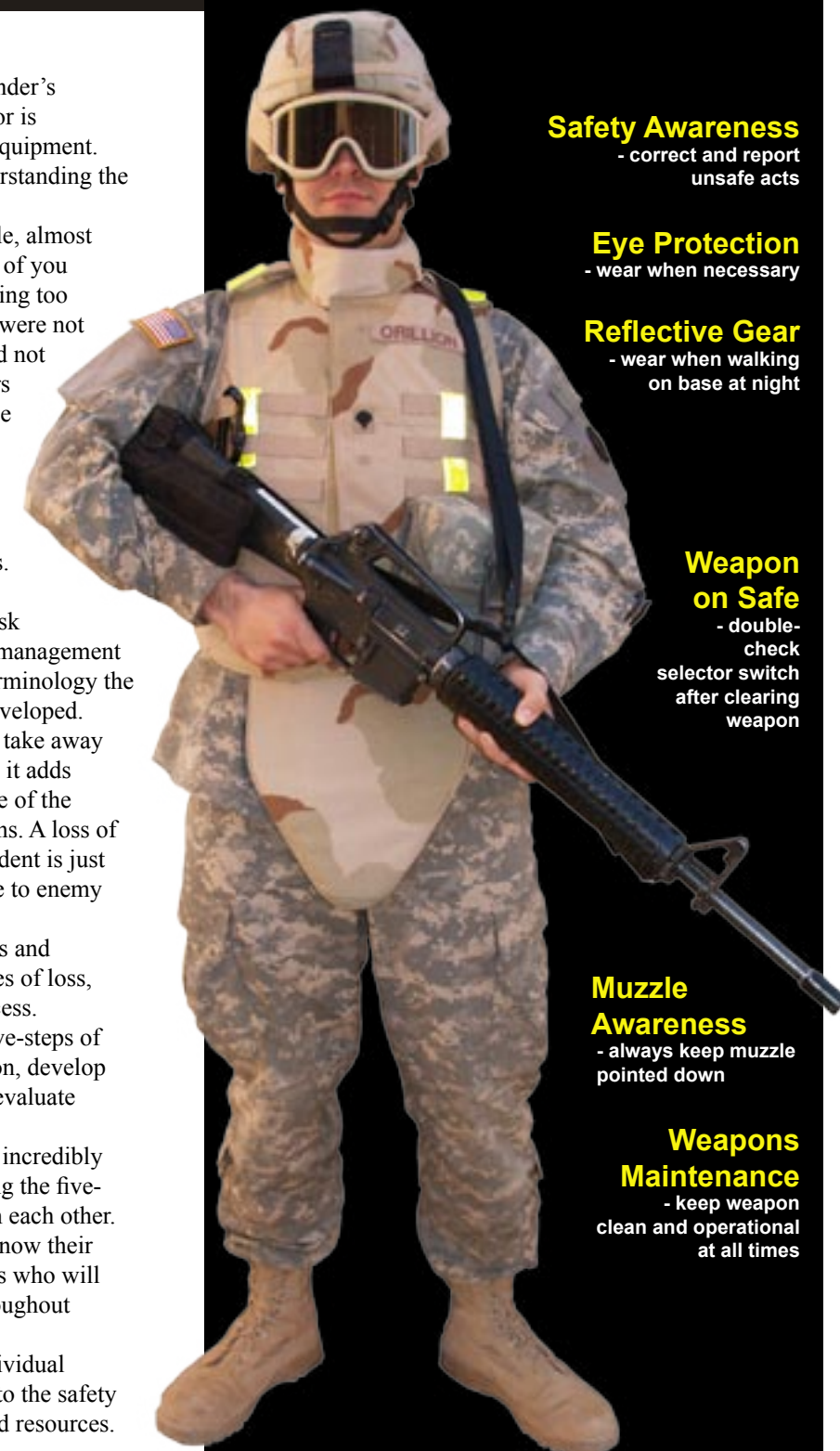
When exercising CRM, Soldiers, civilians and contractors are forced to run potential sources of loss, both enemy and accidental, through the process.

First, a potential risk must undergo the five-steps of CRM; identify the hazard, assess the situation, develop controls, implement controls and supervise/evaluate outcomes to ensure the hazard is mitigated.

The responsibility doesn't end there. It is incredibly important that the knowledge obtained during the five-steps be distributed, so we can all learn from each other.

Soldiers, civilians and contractors must know their Safety Managers, as these are the individuals who will ensure hazard information is distributed throughout organizations and the Army.

Utilizing the CRM and accepting our individual responsibilities as safety officers contribute to the safety mission of preserving life, combat power and resources.



Safety Awareness

- correct and report unsafe acts

Eye Protection

- wear when necessary

Reflective Gear

- wear when walking on base at night

Weapon on Safe

- double-check selector switch after clearing weapon

Muzzle Awareness

- always keep muzzle pointed down

Weapons Maintenance

- keep weapon clean and operational at all times

Pull-Out Posters

While deployed, 3rd Corps Support Command provides logistics support to Coalition forces throughout theater. We support high levels of combat over the duration of major operations. Our battlefield support facilitates the ability to generate combat power at decisive times and places.



The center of each Sustainer magazine hosts a double-sided poster representing the missions and people dedicated to Sustaining the Line FORWARD ...





Thanksgiving Monument

By Staff Sgt. Engels Tejeda, 207th MPAD

Servicemembers at Base Camp Adder celebrated Thanksgiving by dedicating a monument to fallen comrades on Nov. 24.

During a somber ceremony, servicemembers based out of Camp Adder, Camp Cedar II and Tallil Airfield dedicated a monument to those who died while serving out of the three camps. Col. Victor Maccagnan, the commander of the 16th Corps Support Group at Adder, accepted the monument on behalf of the camp.

“I can think of no better way to celebrate Thanksgiving here in Iraq than by dedicating this outstanding memorial to our fellow men and women in uniform

who have laid down their lives in the effort to provide the people of this free and sovereign nation a democratic way of life that we as Americans exercise daily,” said Brig. Gen. Jimmy Welch, the commanding general of the 194th Engineer Brigade and the keynote speaker at the event. “Today, it is our tradition to gather with family and friends to express that which we are thankful for. As I look out upon you, I see that we make up just that: leaders, friends and together, a family that has gathered to express our gratitude to those members [to] whom we owe thanks.”

Consisting of an American and an Iraqi flag, a pair of boots, a Kevlar helmet, a pair of identification tags, a replica

M-4 rifle, and a white wall bearing 59 names, the monument is the product of the creativity of members of the forward 16th Corps Support Group’s 2-44th Air Defense Artillery Battalion.

“We wanted to honor those who gave all they had and to let people just getting on the ground know what’s expected of them,” said Sgt. Pedro Domingo Leguizamon, an intelligence analyst with the 2-44th ADA Bn. who was preparing to end his one year tour in Iraq and who helped build the monument.

“These guys were given the mission and they took charge,” said Sgt. Maj. Timothy Grant, also of the 2-44th ADA Bn., about the Soldiers who built the monument. “They did it with diligence and passion and they went the extra mile.”

Beginning in September, Leguizamon, Pfc. Eric Crawford and Spc. Isaac Johnson worked under the leadership of Sgt. 1st Class Thanh Phan in building the monument. The Soldiers gathered the supplies from post units, and Phan even pitched in from his own pockets to pay for some of the decorations. They worked on

the project while continuing to carry out their truck escort missions.

“It was a privilege just to be a part of something that great,” said Johnson, who is a cook with the 2-44th. “It could be anybody’s name on that wall. It could happen to any one of us.”

It happened to two of Welch’s Soldiers who died during an attack on the roads of Iraq. Sgt. Derrick Lutters and Sgt. Dusty Carroll died during their deployment when terrorists attacked them with improvised and vehicle-borne explosive devices.

“Reading these names brings visions of faces, smiles and multiple memories of those with whom we lived, laughed, cried, ate and slept beside,” Welch said. “And sadly, we know they will not come back home with us. For me personally, I feel this pain. That wall today bears two names of my own Soldiers and it hurts me deeply when I think of them,” he said referring to Lutters and Carroll.

“We hope and pray that we never add another name to that wall,” Maccagnan said, pledging to maintain and safeguard the monument.

Col. Victor Maccagnan, the commander of the 16th Corps Support Group, renders a salute during a ceremony inaugurating a monument to fallen servicemembers at Camp Adder, Iraq.

Photo By Staff Sgt. Engels Tejeda

BOOTS ON GROUND

Story by Sgt. Judith D. DaCosta

Photos by Spc. Mary E. Ferguson



Sand dunes marked the vast desert terrain. The air was dry. On the horizon, camels marched a dusty trail as the rising sun warned of the scorching day ahead. Nearby, Soldiers stood in a horseshoe formation, listening as retired military instructors offered guidance for the upcoming training days.

3rd Corps Support Command Soldiers in chalk five completed close quarter combat training and realistic convoy live fire training as an integrated unit Oct. 11-12 at Camp Beuhring, Kuwait.

Nine other chalks of COSCOM Soldiers underwent similar training in Kuwait prior to departing for their final deployment destinations throughout Iraq.

The training began with instruction on how to properly wear the interceptor body armor. When worn incorrectly the gear can be very uncomfortable. Battle buddies assisted each other in adjusting their IBAs.

Soldiers then grounded their gear for the crawl phase of close quarter combat training. Instructors demonstrated various techniques of defense when receiving fire in a close quarter situation.

After several walk-through exercises of the different combat techniques, the Soldiers geared up and prepared for the live fire portion of the training.



... as the rising sun warned of the scorching day ahead.



Soldiers from 3rd Corps Support Command's chalk five practice various series of close quarter combat maneuvers before firing at targets.

3rd Corps Support Command Soldiers manned the gunner positions during the convoy live fire portion of the unit's training in Kuwait



“Training really comes to life in the desert.”

~ Pfc. Chris J. Mizze

Instructors yelled out a series of close quarter combat movements, and Soldiers performed each movement, firing rounds at their individual paper targets.

The training familiarized Soldiers with different close quarter combat techniques, while building confidence in their weapons and firing abilities.

“It [the training] was an eye opener,” said Pfc. Chris J. Mizze, a 3rd Corps Support Command SAW gunner with chalk five. “Training really comes to life in the desert.”

With day one of training under their belts, the Soldiers of chalk five mounted tactical vehicles for part-two of their Kuwait training – the convoy live fire course.

“I thought this course was an accurate representation of the reality we are facing,” said Lt. Col. James A. Finkle, chalk five's convoy commander. “We had vehicle-borne improvised explosive devices. We also had an interesting mix of civilian and insurgent targets here that really tested our adherence to the Rules of Engagement.”

“Training was realistic because we didn't know where the threat would come from,” said Staff Sgt. Jessie D. Sutton, chalk five's convoy noncommissioned officer in charge. “I asked the instructor if they [troops] put convoys together hastily like we did here today. He said ‘no.’”

“We received extreme cases in our training here,” said Sutton. “Here we went one time down the live fire lane and one time back. There was no practice run.”

This training also made troops aware of their achievements and areas in need of improvement.

“Everybody including myself learned

from this exercise,” said Finkle. “We accomplished the mission successfully.”

Two Soldiers stood out in their performance on the convoy live fire training, said Finkle.

“Pfc. Hardy helped to set up the radios and I felt he was really a good pitch-in, hands-on Soldier,” said Finkle.

“I don't have much experience with radios,” said Pfc. John W. Hardy, a driver for the chalk five convoy live fire. “But I made sure that everyone could communicate with each other.”

“Staff Sgt. Pettigrew also did an excellent job handling her responsibilities as a vehicle driver,” said Finkle.

“I was the driver for the first vehicle and the recovery vehicle,” said Staff Sgt. Jalaneia T. Pettigrew. “I liked driving the five ton. It takes a level of skill to maneuver it.”

All Soldiers can benefit from the practice of driving up-armored humvees, said Finkle.

“Also, shooting at a target while on the move is far more difficult than it appears. Soldiers could always use more practice,” he added.

“Overall, it was interesting to work with people from the different backgrounds of the CONUS and Germany augmentation,” said Finkle.

“If you look right now,” he added, pointing to troops as they dismounted vehicles to move toward shade, “you can't tell the difference between who comes from where.”

“We pulled together under a lot of stress and worked together as a team. I was impressed,” said Finkle.

The training in Kuwait ensured that Soldiers from all of the unit's training chalks arrived at their final deployment destinations trained, confident and prepared to execute their forward missions.

Online IG Handbook

Information retrieved from 3rd COSCOM webpage

The 3rd Corps Support Command Inspector General Handbook for Leaders is now available at http://www.3coscom.army.mil/leadership/staff/ig/Leader_Handbook.asp.

The handbook is intended to assist leaders and commanders in properly executing their duties in accordance with Army Regulations. It provides leaders with information on Department of the Army policy for a variety of topics.

The topics presented are those that Soldiers and commanders frequently surface to the Inspector General.

The information includes references, highlights of DA policy, commander responsibilities and where to go for additional assistance.

Each of the 25 information appendixes in the handbook discusses and provides guidance on how to handle a specific area of policy or regulation.

The appendix subjects range from Noncommissioned Officer Evaluation Reports and counseling statements, to family care plans and mental evaluation.

Commanders' responsibilities and points of contact for more information regarding each subject are also included in each appendix's content.

The handbook is a resource for Soldiers and a tool to help prevent potential conflicts and quickly resolve problem if they do arise.

When using the handbook, keep in mind that it does not supersede or replace Army Regulations. As of the publication date, the information in the handbook is current.

However, regulations are constantly subject to change. Before taking any final action, Soldiers should refer to the appropriate regulation.

Provide any comments concerning the handbook to the 3rd COSCOM Inspector General. The Inspector General is interested to find out if any part of this pamphlet is difficult to use, has out-of-date information or if any topic was overlooked.

Army Active Duty personnel, Reserve (Federal Status), National Guard (Federal Status) and other DOD military and civilians must cooperate with an IG.

YOUR IG ...

Helps train the Army.

Is responsible to the U.S. Army, the Inspector General System and the commander.

Sphere of Activity includes everything for which the Commander is responsible.

IGs provide assistance, conduct inspections, conduct investigations/inquiries, teach & train.

Ultimately he/she is the extension of the eyes, ears, voice, and conscience of the commander.

IGs can only advise, not order or direct a Commander to act upon a situation.

IGs can inquire/investigate violations of laws, regulations and policies/directives.

3rd COSCOM IG Office

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Kuwait (Camp Arifjan):
318-430-6119 or 6330 or 7149

Baghdad:	Afghanistan:
318-822-2492	318-231-4028 or 4027
Talil AB:	Germany:
318-833-1318	314-337-6939



2006 Commemorations and Ethnic Observances

January

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday

February

African-American/Black History Month

March

Women's History Month

April

"Days of Remembrance" for Victims of the Holocaust

May

Asian - Pacific Heritage Month

August 26

Women's Equality Day

September 15 - October 15

Hispanic Heritage Month

October

National Disability Employment Awareness Month

November

Native American Indian Heritage Month

Sgt. 1st Class Nichelle Sanders
3rd COSCOM EOA
(318) 829-1527

SAME^{but}different

By Sgt. 1st Class Nichelle Sanders, 3rd COSCOM EOA

People join the 3rd Corps Support Command family with differences such as gender, religion and cultural backgrounds. Despite the melting-pot of Soldiers in the unit, the 3rd COSCOM requires its members to adopt common standards, values and norms. When Soldiers understand the scope of this "sameness," while also accepting, understanding, and valuing individual differences, they create an environment where people are inspired to perform to their full potential, and willingly support organizational norms.

Diversity reveals itself through differences in people that may have an impact on the effectiveness of an organization. The Diversity Process is a three-step preventative tool for battling the negatives and promoting the positives associated with diversity.

Accept Differences

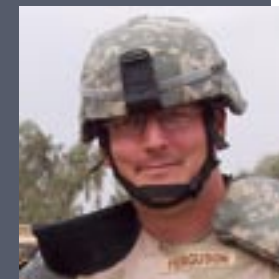
Accept the notion that individual differences matter in an organization. An organization's members must go through the acculturation process to adapt to the existing culture, which is normally derived from the leadership. In lieu of 100% acculturation (or assimilation), the organization respects designated differences and allows members to occasionally nurture those differences.

Understand Differences

Learn about individual differences and how they impact an organization. Accepting the importance of differences increases the desire to learn about differences. Understanding differences is a life-long process. One should take advantage of gender and ethnic observances, educational tools, experts' guidance and individual contact with others. The Army's Consideration of Others Program focuses on understanding differences.

Value Differences

As we prioritize differences and acknowledge how differences can have a positive impact on an organization, we are valuing differences and seeking ways to take advantage of the power of diversity. We learn how diversity works in an organization; we pay attention to the diversity among our customers; we are comfortable discussing diversity; we seek out opinions of those who may think differently from us.



One Iraqi girl's story reflects the hope that persists in a country fighting suppression, the compassion that fuels our nation's Soldiers, and the opportunities that arise when that hope and compassion collide.

*Story and Photos by
Spc. Mary E. Ferguson*

(ma'rwā)



3rd COSCOM and 29th BCT Civil Affairs Soldiers and civilians pose for a group photo with Ma'rwā Ahteemi and her father.

She could be bitter, but she's not. She could be hiding from the world and the many daily challenges she faces, but she's not. She could choose to wear a constant frown, many wouldn't blame her, but she doesn't. Fifteen-year-old Ma'rwā Ahteemi radiates optimism with her faithful smiles. She embraces the world and all of its challenges ... from her wheelchair.

With help from the 29th Brigade Combat Team and 3rd Corps Support Command Civil Affairs sections, Ma'rwā hopes to make her second trip to the United States, where she will receive permanent medical care, and be adopted by Marcie Roth, the director of the National Spinal Cord Injury Association.

Ma'rwā made her first trip to the America soon after a U.S. fired mortar fell short of its target in Nov. 2004, hitting Ma'rwā's house, killing five members of her family, and leaving Ma'rwā paralyzed from the waist down, said Capt. Manuel Wong from the 3rd COSCOM Civil Affairs section.

Ma'rwā woke up in a Balad hospital bed. She immediately won the hearts and hopes of several Soldiers who dedicated themselves to finding a way to get her treatment in the U.S.

Ma'rwā's story found its way to Roth's desk and within days she had secured treatment for the girl at the National Rehabilitation Hospital in Washington. With the help of Iowa Sen. Tom Harkin, Ma'rwā and her uncle, Saleh Mohammed Ali, landed at Andrews Air Force Base Feb. 28, 2004.

She received treatment and regained her strength during her first visit to the States, Wong said.

Ma'rwā and her uncle returned to Iraq in May 2004, and she began receiving her medical treatment and physical therapy at Logistical Support Area Anaconda's Lava Clinic.

"For a long time, we [29th BCT Civil Affairs] were picking her and her father up at the gate and taking her to physical therapy twice a week," said Maj. Marc Lawton, the officer in charge of the 29th BCT Civil Affairs section.

As the 29th BCT prepared to redeploy home,

the 3rd COSCOM Civil Affairs inherited Ma'rwā's mission.

"The 29th BCT was running the physical therapy part of the Lava Clinic," Wong explained. "With nobody to replace them, Ma'rwā no longer had a place to get her physical therapy."

Though Lawton, Roth and Hawkin had been diligently working to get Ma'rwā back to the U.S. on a permanent basis, the physical therapy clinic closing increased the urgency of the mission.

"New rules have come into effect since we started working on sending Ma'rwā to the States for good," Lawton said. "She must have a completed packet to go, and a letter from the Ministry of Health was recently added to the requirements."

Lawton compiled the majority of the packet before redeploying, and Wong will ensure that the process is completed.

"It is incredibly important, not just because of the medical treatment, that Ma'rwā be sent to the states where she can receive opportunities despite her handicap," Lawton said. "If you look in the fields in Iraq you see women working, and fathers seek to marry off their daughters. It is the reality that Ma'rwā will not fit into these cultural roles."

While the Civil Affairs sections are devoted to helping Ma'rwā, they also predict that her story will generate hope and opportunity throughout Iraq.

"I can see Ma'rwā going to the states, and then one day returning to Iraq and being a spokesperson for handicapped Iraqi people," he added. "She is an extraordinary girl, and I see so much potential in her."

If all goes well, Ma'rwā should be on her way to the U.S. by March, Lawton said.



Capt. Manuel Wong from the 3rd COSCOM Civil Affairs helps Ma'rwā Ahteemi into the car after a visit to the Lava Clinic on LSA Anaconda.

Welcome Home

By Spc. Mary E. Ferguson

Soldiers from five 3rd Corps Support Command units unloaded buses to the welcoming cheers and tears of loved ones during the 2005 holiday season.

Dec. 2 marked the beginning of a month of early Christmas gifts for Soldiers, families and friends, as the 619th Movement Control Team and 515th Transportation Company returned to Germany. Soldiers from the 27th Movement Control Battalion's 619th MCT departed for Iraq Jan. 18, 2005. The 181st Transportation Battalion's 515th Trans. Co. began its deployment Jan. 4, 2005.

Children's tired eyes came alive as they saw their parents for the first time in a long time at 2:30 a.m., Dec. 22 during the 11th Transportation Company (Heavy Equipment Transportation) and 377th Transportation Company welcome home ceremony. Though the 11th Trans. Co. (HET) falls under the 18th Corps Support Battalion, the unit deployed with the 181st Tran. Bn.'s 377th Trans. Co., Jan. 10, 2005.

In a fittingly festive atmosphere, family and friends welcomed home more than 100 Soldiers from the 51st Transportation Company during a Christmas Eve celebration at Turley Barracks in Mannheim, Germany. The 181st Trans. Bn. company departed for Iraq Jan. 15, 2005.

As the year unfolds, more and more 3rd COSCOM Soldiers will complete their deployments and return home to their loved ones.



Photo by Nick D'Amario



Photo by Nancy Marquardt



Photo by Keith Wright



Photo by Spc. David Chapman

Students from Tammy Kelly's Hainerberg Elementary fifth-grade class show off letters written for their deployed loved ones.

Resolve to get involved!

By Becky Wiza, 3rd COSCOM Family Readiness Support Assistant

A new year inspires new beginnings. Millions of people will use this opportunity for personal development. While some individuals may resolve to become more organized or physically fit, why not use this fresh start to become more self-reliant, build friendships, and gain valuable interpersonal skills. All of these goals can be met by becoming involved in your family readiness group.

By joining your FRG, you are opening yourself up to many new and interesting opportunities. While each FRG customizes their own meetings, all FRGs strive to educate their members on topics of interest and importance. You may learn about anything from financial readiness to self-defense to automotive maintenance.

Whether your Soldier is deployed or in garrison, it's beneficial to participate in your FRG because it is an excellent information conduit. We all know that our Soldiers are not always the most accurate or timely source of data. As an FRG member you will receive information about training schedules and upcoming community and company events at each meeting. In fact, you may even learn things before your Soldier does.

It is important to stay in touch with your FRG Leader and Family Readiness Support Assistant to make sure you receive information. They will ensure that you are made aware of schedules, events and activities; however, they can only do this if they have current and correct contact information. If you are

not currently receiving FRG information, contact your Soldier's company. Your FRG wants you to be involved; they may just not know how to contact you.

While information flow is important at all times, it is especially helpful during deployments and training exercises. Based on the information that the company receives, they will pass on details about living conditions, morale, needs and most importantly when your Soldier will return home.

You may even have the opportunity to participate in a video teleconferencing session and see and talk with your Soldier.

Being an Army spouse is hard. Many of us are currently facing deployments or have done so in the past. During this time of hardship it is extremely important to have a support system. Your family members and non-military friends may not appreciate or understand what you are going through. However, your fellow FRG members are not only experiencing the same stresses you are, they are probably experiencing similar emotions.

The benefits of FRGs are countless. This year, challenge yourself to get involved. Participate and help make positive changes for other spouses. If you have never been a member before, join and start receiving all of the great benefits this year. Current members, challenge yourselves to take a more active role; become a key caller or committee chairperson. No matter how you decide to participate, resolve to improve yourself this year. Resolve to become active in your FRG.

"DOWNRANGE" SCRAPBOOK

1st Lt. Janet Buchanan confirms her hits during a Jan. 7 range.



Pfc. James Mark and Spc. Joshua Keller admire their targets as they return to the firing line at Smith Range.



Staff Sgt. Leroy Burton and Sgt. Randy Quarterman tally up range scores.



HHC, 27th Movement Control Battalion down RANGE

Photos by Spc. Andrew Orillion

Spc. Joshua Keller zeros his weapon before qualifying at LSA Anaconda's Smith Range Jan. 7.



WHY WE SERVE, WHY WE STAY ...



Photo by Spc. Mary E. Ferguson

The embers glowed softly, and in their dim light, I gazed round the room and I cherished the sight. My wife was asleep, her head on my chest, My daughter beside me, angelic in rest. Outside the snow fell, a blanket of white, Transforming the yard to a winter delight. The sparkling lights in the tree I believe, Completed the magic that was Christmas Eve. My eyelids were heavy, my breathing was deep, Secure and surrounded by love I would sleep. In perfect contentment, or so it would seem, So I slumbered, perhaps I started to dream. The sound wasn't loud, and it wasn't too near, But I opened my eyes when it tickled my ear. Perhaps just a cough, I didn't quite know, Then the sure sound of footsteps outside in the snow. My soul gave a tremble, I struggled to hear, And I crept to the door just to see who was near. Standing out in the cold and the dark of the night, A lone figure stood, his face weary and tight. A soldier, I puzzled, some twenty years old, Perhaps a Marine, huddled here in the cold. Alone in the dark, he looked up and smiled, Standing watch over me, and my wife and my child. "What are you doing?" I asked without fear, "Come in this moment, it's freezing out here! Put down your pack, brush the snow from your sleeve, You should be at home on a cold Christmas Eve!" For barely a moment I saw his eyes shift, Away from the cold and the snow blown in drifts ... To the window that danced with a warm fire's light. Then he sighed and he said "Its really all right, I'm out here by choice. I'm here every night." "It's my duty to stand at the front of the line,

That separates you from the darkest of times. No one had to ask or beg or implore me, I'm proud to stand here like my fathers before me. My Gramps died at 'Pearl on a day in December," "That's a Christmas my 'Gram always remembers." My dad stood his watch in the jungles of 'Nam', And now it is my turn and so, here I am. I've not seen my own son in more than a while, But my wife sends me pictures, he's sure got her smile. Then he bent and he carefully pulled from his bag, The red, white, and blue... an American flag. I can live through the cold and the being alone, Away from my family, my house and my home. I can stand at my post through the rain and the sleet, I can sleep in a foxhole with little to eat. I can carry the weight of killing another, Or lay down my life with my sister and brother ... Who stand at the front against any and all, To ensure for all time that this flag will not fall." "So go back inside," he said, "harbor no fright, Your family is waiting and I'll be all right." "But isn't there something I can do, at the least, "Give you money," I asked, "or prepare you a feast? It seems all too little for all that you've done, For being away from your wife and your son." Then his eye welled a tear that held no regret, "Just tell us you love us, and never forget. To fight for our rights back at home while we're gone, To stand your own watch, no matter how long. For when we come home, either standing or dead, To know you remember we fought and we bled. Is payment enough, and with that we will trust, That we mattered to you as you mattered to us.

~ A Soldier's Christmas by *Michael Marks* ~

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